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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/725,572	12/03/2003	Ikuo Makita	1538.1043	5135
21171 7590 07/02/2007 STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EXAMINER GEE, JASON KAI YIN	
			ART UNIT 2134	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/02/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to communications: original application filed 12/03/2003
2. Claims 1-54 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, 10, 12, 13, 17, 19, 25, 28, 30, 31, 35, 37, 43, 46, 48, 49, and 53 are independent claims.

***Election/Restrictions***

3. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - I. Claims 1-6, 19-24, 37-42, 7-9, 25-27, and 43-45 are directed toward authentication by digital signature representation, classified in class 713, subclass 176.
  - II. Claims 10-11, 28-29, 46-47, 12, 30, and 48 are drawn toward generating a specific digital signature type, classified in class 713, subclass 180.
  - III. Claims 13-16, 31-34, 49-52, 17-18, 35-36, and 53-54 are drawn toward particular communication authentication technique, wherein message digest travels with message, classified in class 713, subclass 181.
4. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

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Inventions I through III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention (I) has separate utility such as performing format conversion processing to data, (II) has a separate utility such as generating a digital signature, and (III) has a separate utility such as calculating and restoring hash values.

5. Because these inventions are distinct from the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

6. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, the search required for Group I is not required for Groups II and III; the search for Group II is not required for Groups I and III; and the search for Group III is not required for Groups I and II.

7. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

8. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

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**Conclusion**


9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason K. Gee whose telephone number is (571) 272-6431. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Zand can be reached on (571) 272-3811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jason Gee  
Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2100  
06/18/2007.

  
KAMBIZ ZAND  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

<b>Index of Claims</b> 	<b>Application/Control No.</b> 10725572	<b>Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination</b> MAKITA ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b> Gee, Jason K	<b>Art Unit</b> 2134

✓	<b>Rejected</b>	-	<b>Cancelled</b>	N	<b>Non-Elected</b>	A	<b>Appeal</b>
=	<b>Allowed</b>	÷	<b>Restricted</b>	I	<b>Interference</b>	O	<b>Objected</b>

<input type="checkbox"/> Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant			<input type="checkbox"/> CPA			<input type="checkbox"/> T.D.			<input type="checkbox"/> R.1.47		
CLAIM		DATE									
Final	Original	06/18/2007									
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